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MEMORANDUM FOR BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Request for Presidential Aircraft for the Visit of
PRC Chairman of the National People's Congress Wan Li

In furtherance of the President's foreign policy, the use of a Presidential aircraft is requested for the May 21-31 visit of Wan Li, ranking Politburo member and Chairman of the National People's Congress. Vice President Quayle is hosting Wan Li, the highest-ranking visitor from China scheduled this year.

A leading figure in China's reform program, Wan is close to China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping and is a respected member of China's "old guard." Wan has long known the President personally, was one of his principal hosts during his 1985 visit to China as Vice President, and attended the lunch given by Deng during the President's February visit. At that time, the President told PRC President Yang Shangkun that though the Vice President would officially be Wan Li's host, "on a personal basis I want him to know that I will be his host too."

Since Wan is an old friend of the President and will be the highest ranking PRC leader to visit the US this year, his visit has special significance. In addition, Wan will arrive in the US a few days after the completion of Soviet President Gorbachev's visit to China. Wan's visit, therefore, will have additional importance as a symbol of the good state of US-PRC relations. Use of a Presidential aircraft for Wan's travel in the US will reinforce that objective.

Wan will enter the US on May 21 at Buffalo, following an official visit to Canada. Transportation is required to Washington, D.C., New York City, Indianapolis, and Orlando. He will depart for Europe on May 31.

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In view of Wan Li's rank and the official nature of his visit, we recommend that this be designated as a Presidential Mission and that a Special Air Missions aircraft be made available on a non-reimbursable basis.

Melvyn Levitsky
Melvyn Levitsky
Executive Secretary

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